

Atty. Docket No. CA1464
PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No. 09/964,129

REMARKS

Claims 33-37 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-32 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 33-37 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Specifically, claim 33 is fully supported, for example, by the disclosure appearing at paragraphs 0017,0065, 0008,0016 of the specification; claim 34 – by disclosure in Fig.5, 16 and 17; claim 35 – by disclosure at paragraphs 0057 0059; claim 36 – by disclosure at paragraphs 0065-0068; and claim 37 – by disclosure at paragraph 0064 of the specification.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for courtesies extended to Applicants during the Examiner's personal interview with Applicant and Applicants' representatives, which took place on February 22, 2007 at the Patent and Trademark Office. During the aforesaid interview, the invention, as well as the differences between the invention and the prior art have been discussed. Also during the aforesaid interview, Applicants proposed adding new claims 33-37, which were also discussed. Specifically, during the interview, the Applicants' representatives and the Examiner have agreed that none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests the limitations of the new claim 33.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 8-11, 13-15, 21-28 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Gonda et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,662,221) in view of Brenner et al. (U.S. patent No. 5,881,227), Rao et al. (U.S. patent

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No. 6,674,756), Rekhter et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,526,056) and Blumenau et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,665,714). The Examiner has further rejected claims 12 and 29 as being allegedly unpatentable over Gonda et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,662,221) in view of Brenner et al. (U.S. patent No. 5,881,227), Rao et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,674,756), Rekhter et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,526,056), Blumenau et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,665,714) and Bradley et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,584,507). Without admitting that claims 1-4, 8-15, 21-32 are unpatentable over the cited references as alleged by the Examiner, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-4, 8-15, 21-32 without prejudice and add new claims 33-37.

The new claim 33 generally recites:

a management system for managing resources to be provided to a plurality of clients, the resources including a router, a server, and a plurality of storage volumes, the management system comprising:

a network management system which stores network configuration information including relationship between IP addresses of the clients and VLAN-IDs, and manages the router based on the network configuration information, wherein the router assigns corresponding VLAN-ID to a packet with IP address when sending the packet from one of the clients to the server;

a server management system which stores server configuration information including relationship between the VLAN-IDs, LPAR IDs and interface IDs to access at least one of the plurality of storage volumes, and manages the server based on the server configuration information, wherein the

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server has a plurality of logical partitions specified by the LPAR IDs which are associated with the interface IDs;

a storage management system which stores storage configuration information including relationship between the interface IDs and at least one of the plurality of storage volumes to be accessed, and manages the plurality of storage volumes based on the storage configuration information, wherein the plurality of storage volumes is access-controlled by using the interface IDs; and

an integrated management system coupled communicatively to the network management system, the server management system and the storage management system so that the integrated management system can manage the network configuration information, the server configuration information and the storage configuration information,

wherein the integrated management system determines configuration changes of the resources that need to be made in order to operate service with reference to the network configuration information, the server configuration information and the storage configuration information so that the integrated management system can manage configuration of the resources on per-service basis.

As was discussed during the aforesaid personal interview with the Examiner, none of the prior art references of record or any combination thereof teach or suggest at least two features of the invention recited in the new claims and specifically (1) the integrated management system,

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which is coupled communicatively to the network management system, the server management system and the storage management system so that the integrated management system can manage the network configuration information, the server configuration information and the storage configuration information, wherein the integrated management system determines configuration changes of the resources that need to be made in order to operate service with reference to the network configuration information, the server configuration information and the storage configuration information so that the integrated management system can manage configuration of the resources on per-service basis and (2) storing and managing the relationship between the VLAN-IDs, LPAR IDs and interface IDs to access at least one of the plurality of storage volumes.

Applicants respectfully submit that as was discussed during the aforesaid interview on February 22, 2007, Gonda et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,662,221) discloses network and service management between client and server (client 36, server 28 of Fig. 1), some functions of which may generally correspond to the network management system recited in new claim 33. However, Gonda et al. is entirely devoid of any teaching or suggestion of the claimed integrated management system, which is a higher level management system than the network management system and which is coupled communicatively to the network management system, the server management system and the storage management system so that the integrated management system can manage the network configuration information, the server configuration information and the storage configuration information. Gonda et al. is also silent with respect to storing and managing the relationship between the VLAN-IDs, LPAR IDs and interface IDs to access at

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least one of the plurality of storage volumes. Brenner et al. (U.S. patent No. 5,881,227) discloses a general background of partitioning technology, while Rao et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,674,756) and Rekhter et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,526,056) disclose a general background of virtual router technology. Finally, Blumenau et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,665,714) generally teaches a volume-based storage system. Again, Brenner et al., Rao et al., Rekhter et al. and Blumenau et al. do not teach or suggest the claimed integrated management system and the claimed relationship between the VLAN-IDs, LPAR IDs and interface IDs to access at least one of the plurality of storage volumes.

Thus, neither Gonda et al. nor other four references cited by the Examiner discloses how to integrate network and storage resources as specifically recited by aforesaid limitations (1) and (2) of the new claim 33. Thus, the new claim 33 is patentable. Applicants further respectfully submit that new dependent claims 34-37 are patentable at least due to their dependency on the patentable claim 33.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

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Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Pavel Pogodin
Registration No. 48,205

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.P.R. §1.114(c)
is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
this 26th day of February, 2007.

Monica Moreno
Monica Moreno

Date: February 26, 2007